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September 11, 1962 - Tuesday

I [redacted] expected to address a delegation of the Women's National Press Club from Washington this morning. About 75 members have arrived in London. The attractions of the city apparently were greater than those of the Embassy, for only a handful appeared. I had intended to speak to them, and will use these ideas on another occasion, along the following lines:

We received notice this morning of Dr. Soblen's death. We are notifying his widow of our wish to place Embassy facilities at her disposition. His decease will add fuel to the flames already licking up the British press. Little attention is paid here to the proceedings in the trial which resulted in his sentence to life imprisonment. I dare say there are many people at home who will now make a martyr [redacted] of him.

Lewis Jones and I lunched at the American Club. Amongst our community here there was no sympathy expressed for Soblen, but a great deal of criticism of the U. S. Government for having allowed him to escape. The processes of our criminal justice at times [redacted] are unfathomable to the lay mind, or to any sensible person.

Tish Baldridge arrived today from a vacation in Italy, to spend 48 hours at the house. The Commonwealth Prime Ministers ~~Conference got off to a good start~~ yesterday. Macmillan's and Heath's speeches were greeted with applause, an unusual performance at such meetings.

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Jack Cabot came to see me this morning. He is on vacation, with his wife, from Warsaw, which he finds an interesting post. A huge amount of zlotys have been accumulated there, as a result of sales ~~of agricultural products~~ under Public Law 480. Cabot doubts whether repayments will ever be made in dollars, and is an advocate, as I am, of the US Government there and elsewhere buying local real estate with part of the proceeds. Unfortunately, this point of view is only feebly shared by John Rooney.

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